

cpu

COMPUTER POWER USER



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Citron**

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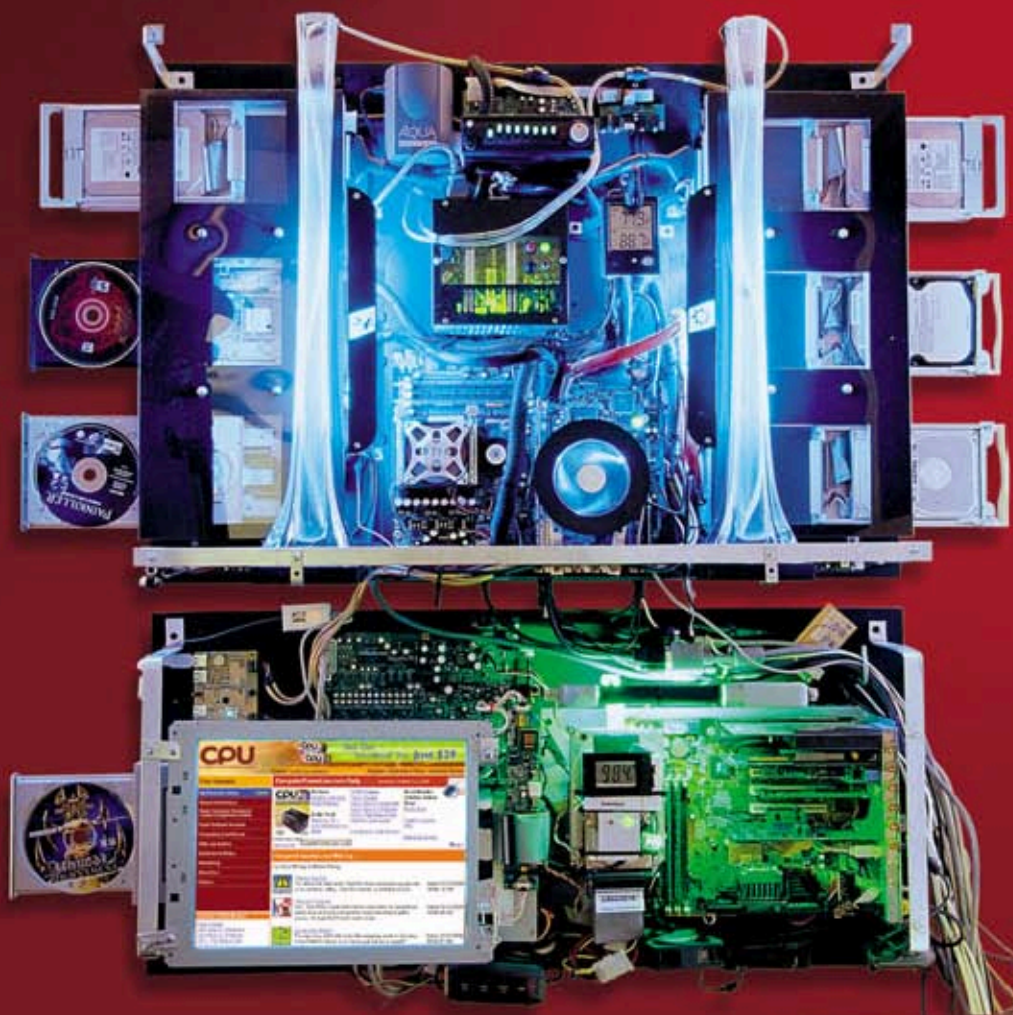
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\$5.99 U.S.
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WanderPort President Inder Arya (left) and CEO Dennis Stacey (right) with their mobile hotspot, the WanderPod.

space by a private company. Because the WanderPort requires no local network, broadband connection, or even power, it is well-suited for use in disaster areas, where the company expects to see it deployed first when the pods launch by year's end. This opens up a world of other possibilities, of course: Wi-Fi and VoIP access for remote construction or mining sites, campsites, filming locations, etc. Downside? Well, it could mean a whole new market for those wired Starbucks shops. Imagine traveling coffee vans with Wi-Fi access. As if the brand weren't ubiquitous enough, consider a future in which Wi-Fi-enabled Starbucks shops actually come to you. ▲

Wonderful World Of Wandering Wi-Fi

Why search for the nearest Wi-Fi access are when the hotspot might come to you? The WanderPort company (www.wanderport.com) is now demonstrating a hotspot on wheels. Embedded in a large mobile unit or trailed behind a car or truck, the WanderPod includes a two-way satellite uplink, a power generator, Wi-Fi access to the Internet and VoIP telephony that can reach users in a 12.5 million square foot area. WanderPort demonstrated the apparatus in the Mojave desert at the launch site of SpaceShipOne, the first manned excursion into

Search Me! Yahoo!, Jeeves & A9 Get Personal

Search engines are now aiming for narrower, more targeted results that relate specifically to our needs and interests. Yahoo!, Ask Jeeves (www.ask.com), and Amazon-owned A9 (www.a9.com) all recently launched what they are calling personalized search capabilities. In most cases, these new services give you customized search pages that remember your recent search terms and let you save, organize, and email results. The My Yahoo! Search (mysearch.yahoo.com) also lets you annotate a saved search result with a note or block a site from future queries. The A9 service lets you work in multiple windows, makes site recommendations off of your recent search history, and lets you drag results into a list of



Both familiar and new search engines want to get personal with customized search services.

bookmarks. Early critics argue that these services are just glorified bookmarks, but Google is looking in an even more promising direction. In the experimental personalized search at Google Labs (labs.google.com/personalized), you fill out a profile of interests that Google saves and then uses to filter and prioritize future search results to best fit your needs. ▲

The Art Of Duh!

How would the world's most famous cubicle-dweller, Dilbert, design his dream house? Well, first of all, it would be virtual, which indeed it is at Dilbert.com. The comic's creator, Scott Adams, naturally wanted an "open-source" project, so he solicited ideas from loyal strip readers about how Dilbert would want to live and received 3,000 suggestions. Some ideas were too impractical (drive-up window for pizza/FedEx deliveries, a riding vacuum, etc.), but he took the most envelope-pushing but do-able concepts to the 3D artists at Heartwood

Studios to create the Web-based house. There are virtual tours of the oval layout, which includes a room dedicated to the cat and its litter box, a basement basketball court, a urinal in the master bedroom, and a kids' bathroom with a floor drain so that it can be



An observatory with an oddly familiar shape and a dedicated cat room are part of Dilbert's Ultimate House.

quickly hosed down. Oh, and then, of course, there is the special Christmas closet where the ultimate office dweeb keeps his fake tree decorated all year so it can be rolled out simply once a year. Adams says, "Dilbert's house turned out so well that I find myself envying an imaginary person." Well, yeah, dude, did you notice that the house is also shaped like an oval donut? ▲